

Carpool Lanes Deliver Big Time Savings in Key Commute Corridors

- Peak-hour carpoolers who use the Bay Area’s network of high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes consistently enjoy significantly faster commutes than drivers in adjacent mixed-flow lanes.
- The HOV lane on Interstate 880 in Alameda County continues to be the biggest timesaver for carpoolers during the southbound morning commute from Whipple Road in Hayward to Mission Boulevard in Fremont. These travelers saved an average 23 minutes in 2005, up from 19 minutes in 2004. Combined with the average eight minutes saved in the HOV lane from Marina Boulevard in San Leandro to Whipple Road, the southbound Interstate 880 carpool lane offers a 31-minute time advantage to commuters traveling the entire 19-mile distance.
- Two new HOV lane segments in Contra Costa County had strong debuts, offering carpoolers the second- and fourth-highest time savings in the region. The 4.4-mile segment of northbound Interstate 680 from State Route

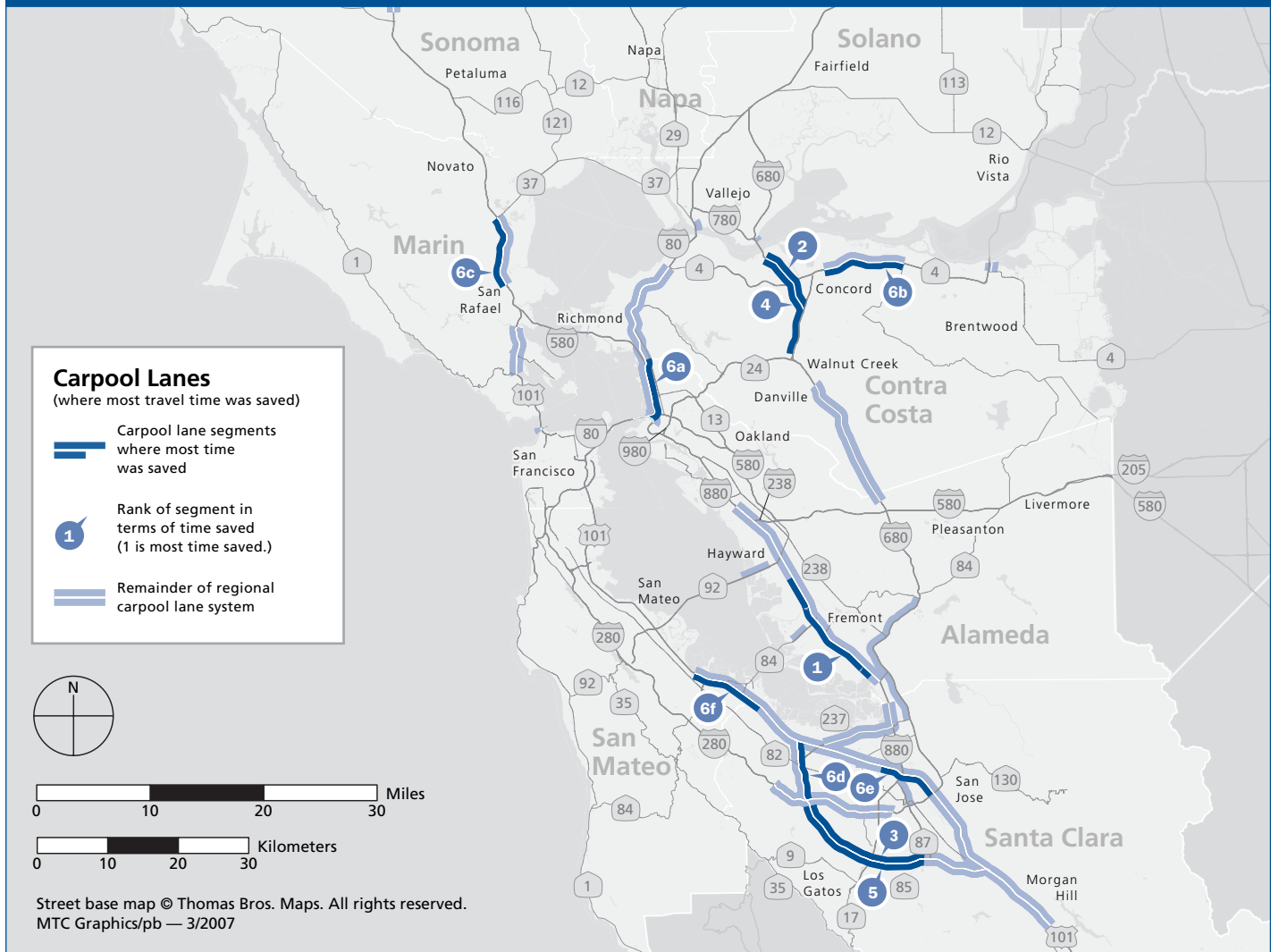
Bay Area Carpool Lanes Where Most Time Was Saved, 2001–2005

Rank	Carpool Lane	Minutes Saved per Vehicle in Peak Hour					Change in Minutes Saved	
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2004–2005	2001–2005
1	Interstate 880, southbound, a.m. — Alameda County Whipple Road to Mission Boulevard (11.5 miles)	40	40	20	19	23	+4	–17
2	Interstate 680, northbound, p.m. — Contra Costa Co. Route 242 to Marina Vista (4.4 miles)	NA	NA	NA	NA	18	NA	NA
3	Route 85, northbound, a.m. — Santa Clara County Almaden Expressway to Interstate 280 (12.5 miles)	16	9	13	12	17	+5	+1
4	Interstate 680, southbound, a.m. — Contra Costa Co. Marina Vista to north of North Main Street (7.8 miles)	NA	NA	NA	NA	16	NA	NA
5	Route 85, southbound, p.m. — Santa Clara County Interstate 280 to Almaden Expressway (12.0 miles)	15	11	12	14	15	+1	0
6a	Interstate 80, eastbound, p.m. — Alameda County I-880 viaduct to Contra Costa County Line (5.3 miles) ¹	9	10	5	8	12	+4	+3
6b	Route 4, eastbound, p.m. — Contra Costa County Port Chicago Highway to west of Railroad Ave. (9.9 miles)	2	2	8	6	12	+6	+10
6c	U.S. 101, southbound, a.m. — Marin County Route 37 to N. San Pedro Road (6.1 miles)	13	8	10	10	12	+2	–1
6d	Route 85, northbound, a.m. — Santa Clara County Interstate 280 to U.S. 101 in Mountain View (5.4 miles)	10	13	11	6	12	+6	+2
6e	U.S. 101, southbound, p.m. — Santa Clara County Guadalupe Parkway to I-280/I-680 interchange (5.0 miles)	12	12	12	12	12	0	0
6f	U.S. 101, southbound, a.m. — San Mateo County Whipple Avenue to Santa Clara County line (6.9 miles)	9	8	13	15	12	–3	+3

Source: Caltrans District 4

¹ In 2003 and 2004, this segment was called the “Port of Oakland to the Contra Costa County line (5.3 miles).” In 2001 and 2002, data was for a shorter, 4.2-mile segment from Powell Street to the Contra Costa County line.

Time Savings in Carpool Lanes, 2005



242 to Marina Vista saved carpoolers 18 minutes in 2005. Those traveling southbound on the newly extended segment running from Marina Vista to North Main Street, a distance of 7.8 miles, had a 16-minute advantage over non-carpoolers.

- Carpoolers in HOV lane segments along both Interstate 880 and Interstate 80 leading to the Bay Bridge toll plaza

got a smaller advantage in 2005 as travel times in the HOV lanes held steady and travel times in the adjacent mixed-flow lanes decreased. Conversely, the travel time advantage for carpoolers using the eastbound HOV lane segment along State Route 4 in Contra Costa County jumped by six minutes as increased congestion prompted a jump in mixed-flow travel times.